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SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERALISM AND THE CENSUS

Congressman Michael R. Turner, Chairman



OVERSIGHT HEARING

STATEMENT BY MICHAEL R. TURNER, CHAIRMAN

Hearing topic: *"The Air Force Institute of Technology: An Intergovernmental Model for Today's Military Education."*

Saturday, July 29, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Carney Auditorium, National Museum of the United States Air Force
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

Welcome to the Subcommittee's oversight hearing entitled, *"The Air Force Institute of Technology: An Intergovernmental Model for Today's Military Education."* I am pleased to have sitting with me on the dais today my colleagues Congresswoman Jean Schmidt and Congresswoman Candice Miller.

The Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) is an establishment of immense value. It proudly provides the resources and expertise to advance Air Force (AF) research and technology at a reasonable cost to taxpayers. This morning's hearing is an opportunity to understand how AFIT interacts with Federal, State, and local governments to ensure continued support and success.

The Subcommittee will also explore the arrangement among the Ohio-based universities, AFIT, and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL). This cooperative effort espoused by the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute (DAGSI) creates a synergistic educational environment greater than the sum of the parts. We will examine how this cooperation maximizes utilization of research resources and educational expertise, enhances graduate education in the AF and in Ohio, and ultimately benefits the war fighter.

Many of you know that the 2005 Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission targeted the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) for closure in the Commission's most recent recommendations. During BRAC hearings last year, testimony was given advocating AFIT's numerous contributions. Collectively, the AF, Congress, State and local governments, and local universities convinced the BRAC Commission not to close AFIT.

The 2005 BRAC selection criteria used by the Defense Department to make recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations were as follows:

- The current and future mission capabilities and impact on operational readiness on DoD's total force;
- The availability and condition of land and facilities at existing and potential receiving locations;
- The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization and future total force requirements;
- The cost of operations and the manpower implications;
- The extent and timing of potential costs and savings;
- The economic impact on existing communities;
- The ability of both existing and potential receiving communities infrastructure to support forces, missions and personnel; and,
- The environmental impact.

In publishing the final selection criteria, the Defense Department specifically stated that "the Department must focus on the existing, demonstrated ability of a community to support its installation, especially as potential investment actions may not translate into reality."

I am eager to hear today from our distinguished witnesses why AFIT must remain at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and what efforts have been made to meet the Commission's recommendations.

We welcome remarks from our distinguished panelists. We will hear from Major General Ted Bowlds, Commander of the AFRL and Brigadier General Mark Matthews, Commander of the AFIT. We will also hear from Ohio State Representative Honorable Kevin DeWine. Then we will hear from Dr. Dan Curran, President of the University of Dayton and Dr. Jay Thomas, Vice President of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies at Wright State University. Lastly, we will hear from Dr. Elizabeth Downie, Director of DAGSI.

With that, my colleagues and I welcome you and look forward to your testimony.

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